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PastWatch - December 1993

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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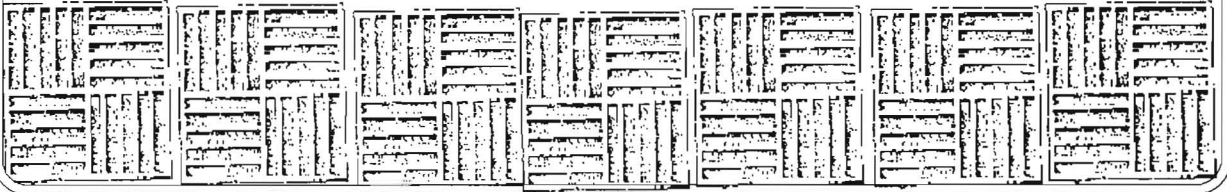
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Past Watch



Volume Two, Numbers Three/Four, December 1993. Newsletter of the Archaeological Research Trust
of The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology, University of South Carolina

ART TOUR OF SOILS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

On Saturday, April 9, 1994, the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology will sponsor a bus tour to various archaeological and geological sites throughout the South Carolina Midlands. The bus tour will be the culminating event of the Second International Conference on Pedo-Archaeology which will be held in Columbia this April 6-9, 1994 at the Ramda Townhouse Hotel to which ART supporters and the general public are invited. This tour will be an excellent opportunity to visit various geological localities in South Carolina which give evidence to past occupations throughout prehistoric times. The tour will end on the beautiful banks of the South Edisto River near Sweden, SC where an old fashioned barbeque dinner will be served. The typical display of spring-time flowers should be spectacular this time of year. Please see *Page 6* for specific details to this exciting event!

INSIDE!

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International Conference

South in Uruguay

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Petersburg Boat Underway at White Woman's Point on the Savannah River

VOYAGE OF THE CENTURY

Mark M. Newell, Archaeologist

They were a wild and legendary breed - mountain boatmen - a mixture of hard bitten pioneers, slaves, and freedmen who spent their lives piloting long and narrow Petersburg boats down the raging torrents that were needed to bring cotton and tobacco down the Savannah River to Augusta and beyond. The last such journey took place about a hundred years ago. Now, in what was billed as the "Voyage of the Century," another Petersburg boat has made an epic journey from Augusta to Savannah, rescuing the fading memory of the boatmen.

The boat was built in Augusta during the summer by SCIAA archaeologist Mark Newell, with the

help of Augusta businessmen George Barrett and small craft historian Rusty Fleetwood of Tybee Island, GA.

No wreckage of a Petersburg has ever been found. The boats ran on flood tides with up to 15 tons of cotton or tobacco and were used until they literally fell apart. They were introduced into the upper Savannah in the 1790's by Virginia patriots who fought for Georgia during the Revolutionary War. Granted land at the confluence of the Broad and Savannah Rivers, they raised a town and named it Petersburg.

Newell came up with the working plans for the boat by examining historical accounts and drawings and refining the result through a computer

(Continued on Page 3)

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

We only have one more month, the month of December, for all our friends to give a tax deductible Christmas gift to our Archaeological Research Trust. We urge every supporter of archaeology to get more involved in the New Year in the conservation of non-renewable resources in South Carolina. Adopt conservation of our cultural resources as a way of life, and in 1994 adopt your favorite archaeologist! Wishing all of you a great holiday season.

Roland C. Young
Chairman

PastWatch is the newsletter of the Archaeological Research Trust, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

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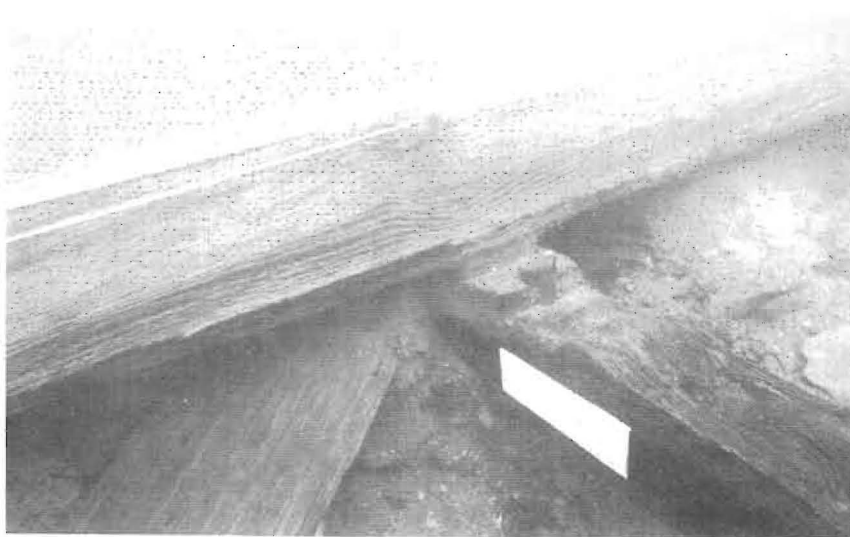
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The Archaeological Research Trust of the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

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1321 Pendleton Street
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*Keel and Frames of Ingram Vessel
Photographed Underwater During Excavation*

EXCAVATION OF WRECK IN PEE DEE RIVER SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division Staff

Sport Diver and ART Board of Trustee member Miller Ingram spent a week in the Great Pee Dee River at Cheraw this October as a result of a grant written by SCIAA and Dr. Suzanne Linder for the study of a small wooden wreck found by Miller and known as the *Ingram Vessel*.

Miller, a lawyer in Cheraw, has been an avid sport diver for many years, spending as much of his spare time as possible exploring the headwaters of the Pee Dee. His discoveries include Civil War munitions and the wreckage of a steamship thought to be the *SS Robert Martin*. Much of this material has been used to stock a small museum in Cheraw which serves to educate visitors and residents alike about the heritage beneath their local waters.

This Fall's project resulted from a visit by SCIAA staff to Cheraw at Miller's invitation last year. The steamboat wreckage and the wreckage of the small wooden vessel were surveyed at that time, and site file forms were written up on Miller's finds.

Dr. Suzanne Linder was at that time completing a Ph.D. at the

USC Department of History and became aware of the finds. She collaborated with SCIAA archaeologist Mark Newell to write a grant application for further study of the wooden vessel. The grant was funded by the South Carolina Humanities Council and a one week investigation of the wreck was conducted. The project was headed by archaeologist Christopher Amer (Head of the Division) and Mark Newell with diver technicians Joe Beatty and Carl Naylor, research assistant William Barr, and Miller Ingram. Augusta, GA, sport diver Britt Nickels also took a week off from work to volunteer her expertise as an underwater still and video photographer.

The small wreck was of interest to SCIAA as it appears to be the first river vessel found in a headwaters context. We are by now developing a good understanding of the form and function of such vessels in low country locations where they served plantations and communities - but little is known about how this same trade was conducted with Fall Zone communities at navigable headwaters such as Cheraw on the Pee Dee.

(Continued on Page 4)

DIRECTOR'S VISTA

Bruce Rippeteau, Director and State Archaeologist

With this third issue of *PastWatch*, we close out a mighty fine year of the SCIAA Archaeological Research Trust.

The highlight of the year was reaching \$30,000 in the Endowment! (We do have a ways to go to our several year goal of \$100,000, so any of you who would love to give \$71,000 to push us over the top, please let me know.) If we were to count the \$50,000 or so already given to **ART** for directed research, the overall fiscal fuel flow for the Trust as a machine for doing archaeology would be some \$80,000 in 1993.

And this \$30,000 is even now earning more principal, and spinning off the intended funds for SCIAA research. In fact, the Board of Trustees

will make its first research funding awards next month.

In 1993, I also can not help but think of the 13 May trip to visit SCIAA's excavations by Stan South and Chester DePratter at the 1566-1587 site of Spanish Santa Elena. I also think of the numerous research articles for your information and enjoyment, which have appeared in this newsletter.

And through the good offices of Board Member Mark Newell (of the SCIAA Underwater Division, J. Carter Brown Summer Institute in Early Modern Maritime History, and the *Fort Augusta* Petersburg Boat fame), we have the final draft for the stone carving which commemorates our Founding Donor Organizations

and Individual names.

In ending 1993 with this third *PastWatch*, I would call all of our attentions to the Board of Trustees who make it happen: Chairman Roland C. Young and Vice Chair Miller Ingram, our dutiful Secretary Tommy Charles, Chief Fundraisers Mark Newell and Albert Goodyear, and new Members Shipp Harris and Tony Harper. I also call our attention to SCIAA stalwarts Nena Powell who assists the Board and edits this *PastWatch* and to Sherry Bailey who acts as business manager for **ART**.

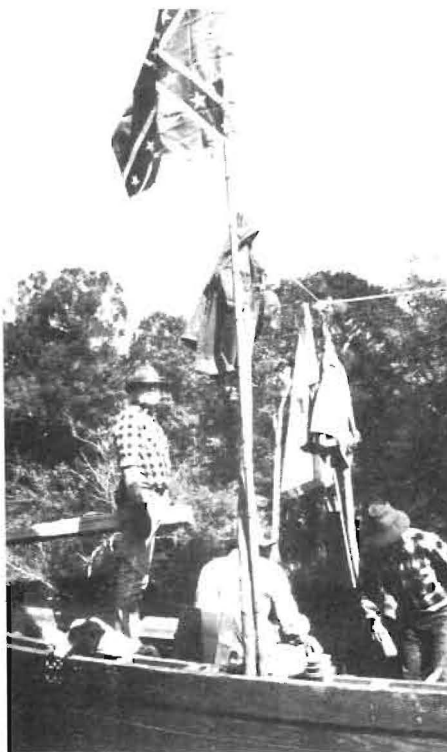
Best of the Holiday Season to you and the Best for 1994. And Thank You All for continuing your support of and participation in the SCIAA Archaeological Research Trust.

Voyage Continued

system with a team headed by Rusty Fleetwood. George Barrett, using a proposal penned by Newell, raised \$100,00 for the project. Construction began in April and was completed in August. The finished boat was 57 feet long, seven feet wide, and closely matched illustrations of the original vessels.

Named the "*Fort Augusta*" the vessel was launched into the Augusta Canal in September. In the following weeks crews trained on the vessel as Newell studied its performance capabilities. On November 6th, after a crane had lifted the three and half ton craft into the Savannah River, it departed the Augusta riverfront on a 195 mile journey into history.

The crew poled and rowed the craft approximately 25 miles each day, stopping at landings and ferry crossings to be greeted by local residents from Georgia and South Carolina Counties through which they passed. Newell



Mark Newell of SCIAA Stands at the Steering Sweep of the Petersburg Boat

took along an 1893 map of the river - noting locations which evoked past images of those historic voyages - Hog Crawl Round, Flowery Gap Landing, Rattlesnake Camp, Little Hell Bend, The Whirligig...

The boat arrived at Savannah eight days later to be greeted by the President of the Coastal Heritage Society. Among the ceremonial cargo was a millstone of Elberton Granite. The millstone was made by Charles Comolli of Custom Cut Granite Company in Elberton and was donated by the Elbert County Historical Society. One side of the millstone was left smooth - on it was inscribed "Commemorating the Bicentennial Voyage of the Petersburg Boat to Savannah Georgia, 1793 - 1993. Gift of the Elbert County Historical Society."

A small black granite tile was attached to this side of the millstone, on it was etched a picture of a cotton boat shooting the rapids above Augusta.

THE SEARCH FOR FRANCIS MARION'S SNOW'S ISLAND CAMP

Steven D. Smith, Archaeologist

From around December of 1780 to April 1781, Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion used Snow's Island in Florence County as a base camp for his partisan band fighting for independence. Surrounded by rivers and swamp, this camp afforded his troops a safe haven to organize raids against British troops occupying South Carolina. In March of 1781, a detachment of British soldiers were able to find and destroy the camp while Marion was successfully checking the advance of another British detachment. Though Snow's Island has been recognized as an important historic place, the exact location of Marion's camp (or camps) has since been lost. This October, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology initiated a systematic archaeological survey in search of Francis Marion's Snow's Island camps.

This project was led by Steven D. Smith of the Institute with the field work directed by James B. Legg. The methodology for the work consisted of archival and map research to narrow down the search areas on the island which were then surveyed using metal-detectors. High ground on the island was searched, especially around the Lynches River area where Marion had addressed several letters to General

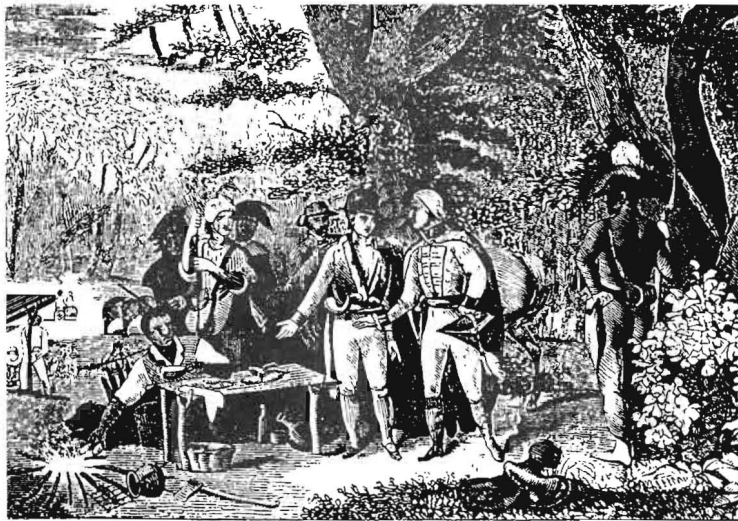
Nathaniel Green during the period in question. Marion wrote at the top of his letters to Green the following locations: Lynches River, Mouth of Lynches River, Snow's Island, and Goddard's plantation. William Goddard owned and farmed Snow's Island during the war. Unfortunately, the most logical locations for camps did not prove fruitful, so additional survey was conducted in

army's presence. Still, Marion eluded the searchers.

Once the accessible and most obvious places had been checked on the Snow's Island side of Lynches River, the land survey continued along the north bank, opposite Snow's Island, on Georgia-Pacific property. There, archaeologists located an isolated colonial site, which looks upon preliminary analysis to be contemporaneous with Marion's occupation of the region. Perhaps, and hopefully, this site is part of Goddard's plantation, although additional research is needed to confirm this hypothesis. As this report was written, artifact analysis and additional archival research is continuing on the findings.

The project was funded by Sonoco Products Company, the Marion County Historical Society, and numerous private interested individuals. Additional funding and assistance

came from the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Three Rivers Historical Society, and Georgia-Pacific graciously allowed us to search their property and conduct some preliminary excavations at the colonial site. A report will be written about the project and be available through the Institute upon completion of analysis. Art: SCIAA: [Simms: *Life of Marion: 1844*]



Marion inviting a British Officer to Dinner. PAGE 179.

lower swampy areas of the island, and in areas where local informants reported finding artifacts or had placed the "traditional location" of the camp. According to contemporary newspaper accounts, Marion's stores were thrown into the Lynches River during the British raid. An underwater team, led by Chris Amer, searched the shallow, tree-infested Lynches River and Clark's Creek in search of evidence of Marion's

Pee Dee Wreck *Continued*

The vessel Miller found lay upside down with a small section of the keel and bottom planking visible in sand and gravel. During the one week project the team, with Amer as principal investigator, excavated along the keel and planking to reveal a larger section of this flat bottom vessel. A return visit for two days will hopefully reveal more of the internal structure as

divers excavate beneath the planking.

According to Amer, the vessel was built entirely of Southern Yellow Pine and was likely between 45 to 50 feet in length and having a beam of approximately 14 feet. During the next few months, archaeologists will piece together the myriad of information recovered from the site (measurements, drawings, and photos) to re-

construct a view of this unique vessel.

The project added greatly to our knowledge of boats in this area of the State, and we would like to express our thanks to Miller Ingram for making the whole effort possible - another fine example of what can be accomplished when sport divers and archaeologists work together.

SPORT DIVERS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Chris Amer, Head Underwater Archaeology Division

Hobby (sport) diving has been licensed in South Carolina since the 1970's. With a hobby license, divers can collect fossils and artifacts, if they provide a list of items they collect to the Underwater Archaeology Division at the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA).

To help divers identify and record their finds, SCIAA staff offer basic archaeological training, including a field manual. Divers attending annual field schools get classroom and laboratory instruction, swimming pool and open water sessions, and practical experience.

Local dive stores distribute educational literature, including *The Goody Bag*, a newsletter of articles and

artwork. This newsletter answers common questions about archaeological sites and lists conferences, field school dates, statewide diving activities, and changes in underwater archaeology laws.

According to Chris Amer, Deputy State Archaeologist for Underwater at SCIAA, one unexpected result of state licensing has been an increase in volunteerism. Instead of just recovering artifacts, sport divers voluntarily coordinate weekend teams that record and document sites. In 1991, divers from all over the state compiled a study of barge architecture based on shipwrecks in the Waccamaw River. The following year graduates from the program field school conducted a survey of the Cooper River. This year, graduates

will survey the Savannah River near Augusta for submerged cultural sites under the direction of Underwater Archaeology Division archaeologists.

With the addition of a strong educational component to the state licensing program, Institute staff report that the quality of information turned in by sport divers has improved. The program also helps archaeologists by training a pool of volunteers to help on projects statewide.

"An active combination of recreation and cultural resource management," says Amer, "has made South Carolina a national leader in promoting education about underwater archaeological sites."

TRAINING COURSES SCHEDULED FOR 1994

Robin Denson, Archaeologist

During the first weeks of a temporary appointment as head of the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program in the Underwater Division (SDAMP) at SCIAA, one thing concerning training and education has become clear - there is a need to offer more training courses at regularly scheduled intervals throughout the year.

Many of you have come forward asking about courses, when and where the next one will run and yet, historically when a course is scheduled, it is often not filled. In an attempt to make scheduling courses easier for you and more economical for us, the following program of training is proposed for next year (1994):

(1) Field Training Schools - a two-and-a-half-day course will be offered on the last weekend of every odd numbered month (January 28-30, March 25-27, May 27-29). This course will include the lecture series and pool practical training exercises consistent with the content of the first weekend of previous field schools. Participants will be asked to attend a Friday evening lecture, an all day Saturday session, and a

somewhat shorter Sunday session ending around 2:00 PM. All successful participants will receive a certificate of attendance from SCIAA and a Nautical Archaeological Society (NAS) Part One (optional).

(2) Field Training Projects - On the last weekend of the even numbered months beginning in April 1994, a field project will be undertaken by the SDAMP staff to record and place (on paper) a previously unrecorded site in the SC State Site Files. Only Field Training School graduates will be invited to attend, but participation is optional. Participants in the Field Training Projects will be awarded a certificate of completion equivalent to the previous field school certificate and will go away with the knowledge that they have helped to contribute to the management of South Carolina's submerged cultural heritage (the purpose of the master site file).

This field school is a trial run and if successful, we will continue to schedule courses in this fashion. It is my opinion that participation in training courses can improve the quality of

data received from sport divers via the much-dreaded quarterly report. Likewise, the courses will assist you with learning techniques in archaeological recovery and identification of finds.

Courses will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Each class requires a minimum of twelve and a maximum of twenty participants with sixteen being an optimal number. If you are planning to attend any one of these courses, please send checks made payable to SCIAA for \$70.00 and an additional \$50.00 payable to NAS (optional) along with the attached form to: Elizabeth Collins, SCIAA/USC, 1321 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 777-8170.

| Field Training Course Registration Form | | |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| Name | _____ | |
| Address | _____ _____ | |
| Telephone | _____ | |
| I want to be signed up to attend the SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division's Field Training Course dated (Circle one) | | |
| January 28-30 | March 25-27 | May 27-29 |

SCIAA HOSTS 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEDO-ARCHAEOLOGY

Albert C. Goodyear, Conference Organizer

A conference featuring researchers from the United States and foreign nations will be held in Columbia this **April 6-9, 1994** at the Ramada-Townhouse Hotel. The pedo-archaeology conference focuses on the application of soil science to archaeological problems. The public is invited. The first two days of the Conference (Thursday and Friday) will consist of the presentation of scientific papers. There will also be a banquet and lecture Friday evening at the hotel featuring Dr. John E. Foss, Chairman of the Plant and Soil Science Department of the University of Tennessee. Dr. Foss will present a slide-illustrated talk on his experiences in applying soil science techniques to archaeological sites in both the Old and New Worlds. He has recently returned from Pompei where he conducted lead studies in the soils surrounding that city.

Of potentially great interest to readers of *PastWatch* will be a bus tour on **Saturday, April 9**, to various archaeological and geological sites in the midlands area. The tour will end up on the South Edisto River where a BBQ dinner will be served. The bus will leave the hotel at 8:30 AM and return by 7:00 PM.

Sites to be visited will already have been described by Dr.'s Foss and Goodyear and published in the conference guidebook which is provided as part of registration. These sites include the ancient prehistoric red soils that

underly Columbia; an area on the Congaree River near Cayce with a buried Pre-Columbian forest soil bearing late Indian artifacts and radiocarbon dated to about A.D. 1650, all of which was buried under six feet of flood sand probably from the 1929 flood; a terrace on the Saluda River with old river soils some of which have produced several

basic upland soil and geologic stratigraphy of the Coastal Plain. As is contended by some scholars, the latter is a classic situation for the burying of prehistoric artifacts by bioturbation or the disruptive activities of plants and animals. The latter is an issue of great debate in South Carolina archaeology. The bus tour will end up at a log cabin

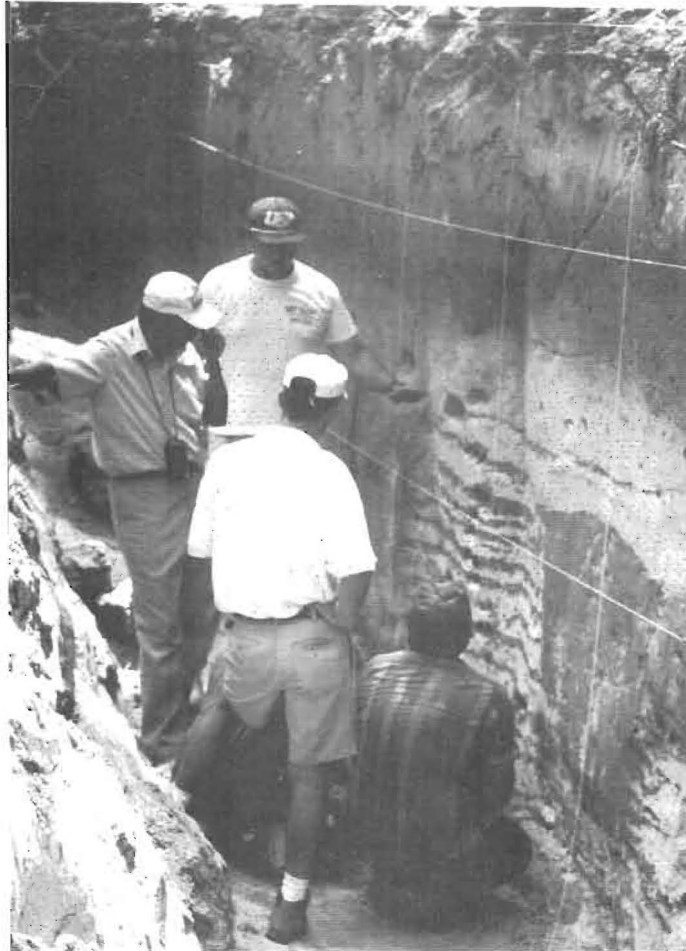
lodge on the South Edisto River where a BBQ supper will be served.

For those interested in attending the entire conference, the registration fee is \$75.00 before March 31, 1994 and \$100.00 afterwards. This includes all coffee breaks, publications, banquet, bus tour, and BBQ. It is possible to register for only portions of the conference such as the banquet and the bus tour excursion on Saturday. The fee for the bus tour is \$30.00 which covers the costs of the bus tour, publications, and BBQ dinner.

For more information about the conference and how to register please call or write: Dr. Albert C. Goodyear, SCIAA/USC, 1321 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29208 803-777-8170.

A brochure will be sent to anyone interested in attending all or parts

of the conference. For those desiring to see more of South Carolina archaeology in the field situation, especially in the company of a wide variety of experts, this is an excellent opportunity. The *ART* is pleased to be able to be a part of this and encourages all those who are interested to attend.



*Al Goodyear Consults with Geologists on Ancient Soils
at Savannah River Chert Quarry*

late Paleoindian Dalton points and a possible hearth feature radiocarbon dated at 8,550 B.P.; sand dune formations near the Columbia airport which exhibit a controversial striped phenomenon called "lamellae"; and a typical soil profile near North, SC in Orangeburg County which shows the

See Registration Form for Conference and ART Field Trip on Following Page

STANLEY SOUTH HONORED IN URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA

Archaeologist and Research Professor, Stanley South of the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, has been invited to consult with the Ministry of Education and Culture in Montevideo, Uruguay, on the excavated historic site ruins at Uruguay's oldest city, Colonia del Sacramento. South will also be the honored guest of the city of Colonia, the University of Montevideo, and a reception in his honor will be held at the US Embassy.

South's work in historical archaeology is well known in several South American countries through his book *Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology* and other publications. The first South American conference on historical archaeology is being held

in Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay on November 22nd through the 26th, with South as the featured speaker. The coordinator of the conference is Lic. Nelsys Fusco Zambitogiris, historical archaeologist for the Uruguayan Minis-

Our Legacy: Our Trust University of South Carolina



Bruce Rippeteau, Nelsys Fusco Zambitogiris, and Stanley South

try of Culture, who was a recent volunteer working with South and Dr. Chester DePratter at the Spanish colonial capital of *La Florida* located at Santa Elena on Parris Island, South Carolina.

South has also been invited by Dr. Gustavo Politis, Director of Postgraduate Studies of the Faculty of the Museum of Natural Sciences at the National University of La Plata in Argentina to present a lecture to students

and staff on method and theory in historical archaeology at the University. South's hosts for the Uruguay and Argentina lectures are paying all expenses for he and his wife, Dr. Janet R. Reddy, who will be accompanying him on the South American journey.

South and his colleague, Dr. Chester DePratter, have recently

received a \$130,000 Legacy Fund grant for continued archaeological investigation at the site of the sixteenth century capital of Spanish Florida at Santa Elena, located on Parris Island, SC.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEDO-ARCHAEOLOGY

APRIL 6-9, 1994

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

REGISTRATION FORM FOR CONFERENCE AND ART TOUR

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Preregistration Deadline: March 31, 1994

- _____ \$75.00 pre-registration fee (Includes banquet, conference materials, field trip, publications)
- _____ \$100.00 registration at conference
- _____ \$30.00 field trip, publications and barbeque
- _____ \$30.00 one day registration, breaks, publications

Check, money order or purchase order will be accepted payable to:
2nd Pedo-Archaeology Conference (US dollars only).

Please send to: Albert C. Goodyear
2nd Pedo-Archaeology Conference
SCIAA, USC, 1321 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29208-0071
(803) 777-8170

ENDOWMENT DONORS PLAQUE PROGRESS

The granite plaque designed to honor Founding Donors to the **ART** Endowment Fund during our charter year in 1992 is now in the final design stage. Mark Newell is now working with a full scale mock-up of the plaque which will be sent to Elberton, Georgia upon completion. Endowment donor Charles Comolli will then supervise the next stage of the project which will be selection of granite and preparation of the art for the sandblasting process. Mr. Comolli will determine the final size of the plaque which may contain one or more slabs of granite. SCIAA will then determine the location of the plaque within its Pendleton Street offices in preparation for an official unveiling. Further progress will follow.

BE AN **ART** SUPPORTER IN 1994!

ART Support Schedule

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| Student..... | \$10.00 | Organization..... | \$50.00 | Patron..... | \$500.00 |
| Individual..... | \$20.00 | Sustaining..... | \$100.00 | Corporate..... | \$1,000.00 |
| Family..... | \$25.00 | | | Founder..... | \$5,000.00 |

*All Gifts are Tax Deductible Through
the USC Educational Foundation*

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SCIAA ART

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